

PATENT APPLICATION

power transfer means for transferring an output power of said engine from the output shaft thereof to drive wheels of the hybrid vehicle;

an electric motor for propelling the hybrid vehicle, said electric motor having an output shaft;

power transfer means for transferring an output power of said electric motor from the output shaft thereof to drive wheels of the hybrid vehicle;

coupling said power transfer means for transferring an output power of said electric motor from the output shaft thereof to drive wheels of the hybrid vehicle upon starting the hybrid vehicle;

uncoupling said power transfer means for transferring an output power of said engine from the output shaft thereof to drive wheels of the hybrid vehicle upon starting the hybrid vehicle; and,

coupling said power transfer means for transferring an output power of said engine from the output shaft thereof to drive wheels of the hybrid vehicle when the hybrid vehicle increases above a predetermined speed.

REMARKS

A further claim, claim 61 is added to round out the protection afforded by applicant's invention. Antecedent support is found in Figure 1 and the description with respect to Figure 1 found in the specification.

This claim highlights features of the invention including:

- (1) There is a transition to cruise mode above a predetermined speed of the hybrid vehicle.
- (2) Since the electric motor is disengaged while the vehicle is cruising, the load on the engine is reduced which minimizes consumption of fuel ; and,
- (3) Because the electric motor is not powering the vehicle, the consumption of electric energy from the electric motor battery is reduced.

Favorable consideration of the claims now pending in this application is respectfully solicited.